

## Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCEM-02 INT-08 RSR-01

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1372

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJECT: TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE

FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF EDITORIAL ON SUBJECT IN OTTAWA JOURNAL  
JULY 17, CAPTIONED "DON'T BLAME THE AMERICANS": BEGIN QUOTE  
CANADA HAS A WEAK CASE FROM THE BEGINNING IN ARGUING THAT THE  
AMERICANS SHOULD NOT USE THE OPEN SEAS TO CARRY OIL FROM ALASKA  
TO VALDEZ, WASHINGTON, BECAUSE SPILLS MIGHT CAUSE ENVIRONMENTAL  
DAMAGE.

THE VULNERABILITY OF THE WEST COAST TO HUGE TANKERS IS REAL  
ENOUGH, BUT HARDLY MORE SO THAN MANY OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD  
WHERE FREIGHTERS TRAVEL.

NO ONE HAS SUGGESTED YET THAT SHIPS STOP PLYING THE CAPE  
OF GOOD HOPE BECAUSE THE SOUTHERN TIP OF AFRICA CONTAINS FINE  
BEACHES AND BEAUTIFUL SCENERY. THE ENGLISH CHANNEL SWARMS WITH  
TANKERS, EXPOSED THOUGH THE COASTS OF BRITAIN AND FRANCE ARE  
TO DAMAGE. OIL FROM VENEZUELA IS NOT, AFTER ALL, FLOWN INTO  
MONTREAL; IT COMES BY SHIP ALONG COASTLINES JUST AS PRECIOUS TO  
THOSE WHO LIVE ALONG THEM AS ANY PART OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'S  
FINE SHORE.

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IT WAS SOFT-HEADED TO THINK FOR A MINUTE THAT SCENERY OR PURE

WATER WOULD WIN OVER ECONOMICS AND NEED. THE ONLY WAY THE AMERICANS WOULD CHOOSE A ROUTE DOWN THE MACKENZIE VALLEY WAS IF IT WERE DEMONSTRATED THAT THE CANADIAN ALTERNATIVE WAS ECONOMICALLY FEASIBLE AND COULD BE PUT IN OPERATION WITHOUT UNDUE DELAY.

SOME MEMBERS OF THE U.S. CONGRESS HAVE ARGUED FOR THE MACKENZIE VALLEY ROUTE ON SUCH GROUNDS. THEY PROBABLY WOULD HAVE LOST THE BATTLE NO MATTER WHAT THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAD DONE. THE INCREDIBLE VACILLATION OF THE GOVERNMENT HAS, HOWEVER, SEALED THE DOOM OF SUCH AS SENATOR MONDALE AND BAYH WHO HAVE BEEN FIGHTING IN THE U.S. SENATE FOR A TRANS-CANADA LINE.

THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO POLICY. IT WON'T SAY YES AND IT WON'T SAY NO.

THE NEW YORK TIMES, A NEWSPAPER WHICH USUALLY BENDS OVER BACKWARDS TO SAY A KINDLY WORD ABOUT CANADA, FELT COMPELLED TO ADMINISTER THIS POLITE REBUKE: BEGIN QUOTE IT WOULD HELP IF THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ITSELF WOULD AT LONG LAST EITHER INDICATE OUTRIGHT ENTHUSIASM FOR A MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE OR RENOUNCE ANY INTEREST IN IT. ITS OPINIONS ON THE SUBJECT HAVE UNTIL NOW BEEN SO LIMITED IN SCOPE AND MUTED IN TONE THAT ONE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT WHILE IT IS EXTREMELY (AND PLAUSIBLY) SOUR ON THE ALASKA LINE-BECAUSE OF THE DAMAGE ITS TANKER LEG MIGHT DO TO THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COAST-IT IS SOMEWHAT LESS THAT EAGER FOR A TRANS-CANADIAN ONE. END NEW YORK TIMES QUOTE.

THE AMERICANS ARE NOT GOING TO GO SHORT OF THEIR OWN ALASKA OIL WHILE OTTAWA DITHERS. A WEAK, MINORITY GOVERNMENT IS CANADA'S PROBLEM, NOT AN AMERICAN CONCERN.

IT IS UNREALISTIC TO BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES WILL ENDURE A SHORTAGE OF OIL WHILE A TIMID CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IS FEARFUL TO ACT BECAUSE A MACKENZIE LINE IS OPPOSED BY SOME ECOLOGISTS AND THE PROSPECTS OF SELLING CANADIAN OIL OFFENDS THE PROTECTIONISTS OR THE NDP.

THE PARALYSIS WATERGATE IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE INDUCED IN  
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THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION HAS NOTHING ON THE PROCRASTINATION ENDEMIC TO CANADA'S MINORITY GOVERNMENT WHICH, INCREDIBLE AS IT MAY SEEM, STILL HAS ITS APOLOGISTS. END OTTAWA JOURNAL QUOTE.  
JOHNSON

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